

1997-98 Legislative Session Results in New and Expanded Efforts to Improve College Preparation and Eligibility



A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACT SHEET

California's Postsecondary Participation Rate Near 67 Percent; Significant Differences Remain Among Student Groups

While over 66 percent of all 1996 California high school seniors enrolled in a postsecondary education program within two years of graduation, college-going rates continue to differ significantly among student groups. Analysis of the Commission's 1996 Eligibility Study and other reports indicate that these differences in college-going rates result from inequities in access to educational opportunities and resources among students from various geographic areas, racial-ethnic backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses. In particular, students from suburban areas, affluent neighborhoods, and Asian and White families are more likely to be prepared and enroll in postsecondary education programs, especially at California's public universities, than are rural or urban graduates, low-income students, or Black and Latino matriculants. In order to lessen these inequities, the Legislature and Governor Wilson provided a total of \$60 million in additional funds to improve college preparation and eligibility by increasing support for Pre-Collegiate Academic Preparation Programs in the 1998-99 State Budget.

The 1998-99 State Budget includes funding to expand Pre-Collegiate Academic Preparation Programs to increase the pool of students eligible to enroll in our public universities. There are two types of these programs:

Student Academic Development Programs: Programs that serve students early in their academic career by providing a range of services, including tutoring, advisement, mentoring, information about college admissions requirements and available financial assistance, study skills instruction, and college test preparation workshops.

School Improvement Efforts: These efforts are designed to enhance the capacity of schools to improve the education of all students through rigorous professional development for teachers, intensive instructional seminars for administrators and teachers, and other actions that strengthen the classroom experiences for students.

The 1998-99 State Budget Included New Funding to Increase Preparation for College

Programs administered by the California Department of Education

The Governor and the Legislature provided \$16.5 million in additional Proposition 98 funds for a number of programs administered through local school districts and, in some cases, with California's postsecondary institutions, to support the implementation of the following pre-collegiate academic preparation programs:

AB 1292 (Villaraigosa/Migden/Pacheco) and SB 1582 (Brulte): The Academic Improvement and Achievement Act supports regional partnerships between public schools and higher education whose goal is to increase the percentage of students in specific high schools that meet the admissions requirements for the California State University and the University of California. These activities are designed to: (1) significantly improve performance on standardized college admissions tests; (2) significantly increase the number and percentage of students who enroll in and complete college preparation course requirements; (3) improve college participation rates; and, (4) increase the number and percentage of students who complete Advanced Placement (AP) courses and receive a score of 3 or above on AP tests. In the 1998-99 budget, \$5 million was appropriated for this new program which may be a combination of both types of Pre-Collegiate Academic Preparation Programs.

SB 1697 (Hayden): This measure provides funding for college admissions test preparation courses for eligible low-income high school students. The 1998-99 budget provides \$10 million to be allocated to local school districts on a 2-to-1 matching basis for this Student Academic Development Program.

AB 2216 (Escutia): This measure establishes the Advanced Placement State Grant Program to pay the costs of Advanced Placement tests for eligible low-income students. This Student Academic Development Program is authorized for five years and has an allocation of \$1.5 million for 1998-99.

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